



Office of the President

**Holy Cross College is Recognized by the U.S. Department of Education
as a Hispanic Serving Institution
June 26, 2025**

It is with great honor that I am sharing some exciting and important news with you. Holy Cross College has been officially recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a Hispanic-Serving Institution — a federal designation that reflects our success in enrolling and supporting a significant number of Hispanic and Latino students. This recognition affirms the distinctive way we welcome, challenge, and walk with all students through every part of their formation. By extending the welcoming love of Jesus Christ to all students, and by nurturing a culture in which students are known, loved, and served, our students grow, succeed, and flourish. This recognition also reflects the trust that Hispanic families place in Holy Cross College and reinforces our commitment to access, excellence, and faith-centered education.

As I share this exciting news, I first want to thank the Holy Cross College faculty and staff, past and present, for their personal witness as Holy Cross educators. We are blessed with their talent, dedication, and personal witnesses to the love of Christ and to the mission and charism of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Since our founding in 1966, the faculty and staff at Holy Cross have responded to their calling as educators in the faith as outlined in the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross: “...crossing borders of every sort” (2.17), “standing side by side with all people” (2.14), and by virtue of their witness nurturing a campus culture of “mutual respect and shared undertaking.” They truly are “hopeful signs of the Kingdom” (2.11).

What does this mean for Holy Cross?

It's major news when a college or university is designated a Hispanic Serving Institution. To place it in a broader context, there are approximately 2,637 4-year colleges and universities in the United States. Of that, 395 have received the HSI designation--191 of those are private and 35 are Catholic. We are now the third Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) college with this status and the second Catholic college in the state. Achieving this designation unlocks opportunities for programs and funding that benefit all students at the college, not just those students who are Latino or Hispanic, shapes inter-cultural and educational experiences for everyone, and opens new opportunities for funding support to be used to develop and expand programs and student support services that benefit the entire student population.

How to Talk About It: Key Points

- **This was earned through mission in action.**
We didn't pursue this designation as a target. It came naturally from the way we already serve students — especially those seeking purpose, belonging, and a values-centered education.
- **This reflects our Catholic mission, not a policy stance or political statement.**
The HSI designation affirms the work we've been doing all along — grounded in faith, hospitality, and a commitment to educating and forming the hearts and minds of our students to be life-long, innovative scholars, courageous citizens, virtuous leaders, and hopeful and passionate disciples.
- **This is about student trust and success.**
Hispanic students and their families are choosing Holy Cross — and they're thriving here. Their four-

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year graduation rates are significantly better than the national and state averages, and their student loan debt (\$24,000) is well below the national (\$38,375) and state (\$33,800) student financial aid debt averages. Furthermore, over 90% of Holy Cross College graduates are gaining admission to prestigious graduate programs and/or beginning their careers within months of graduation. This designation tells their story. It affirms that we're a place where students find belonging, direction, and opportunity.

- **This is about student success and a strong community spirit.**

This reflects the stories and experiences about how Hispanic and Latino students are not only welcomed here but fully formed, deeply supported, and flourishing. It shows how we create spaces of belonging where purpose can take root and gifts and talents in service to others and our God is nurtured.

- **This is our mission, centered on all students.**

This recognition is not about separating or siloing groups — it affirms our mission to serve and walk with every student. As is stated in the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross (2:12), “As disciples of Jesus we stand side by side with all people. Like them we are burdened by the same struggles and beset by the same weaknesses; like them we are made new by the same Lord’s love; like them we hope for a world where justice and love prevail.” The same values and structures that support our Hispanic students are the ones that benefit all students at Holy Cross.

- **This is part of The Holy Cross Way.**

Being recognized as an HSI affirms our radical hospitality and whole-person formation. It’s a reflection of the same commitment that shapes everything we do — from student-athletes to transfer students to those called to lives of service.

- **This strengthens our ability to recruit and serve.**

This designation allows us to access new federal resources that will strengthen programs for all students — and helps us tell prospective families: *you belong here*.

- **This is one more way we live out our Catholic and Holy Cross mission.**

Today, there are more than 150 Holy Cross schools, colleges, and universities in twenty-one countries, educating more than 150,000 students each year. Welcoming and accompanying all students — especially those historically underrepresented in higher education — is a faithful expression of our Holy Cross charism and Catholic identity. It is our mission to educate and form our students as global citizens who possess the competence to see and the courage to act.

Ave Crux, Spes Unica,

Marco J. Clark, Ed.D.
President

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